



transport

Department:
Transport
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

MEDIA LIAISON AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

MEDIA STATEMENT

TO ALL MEDIA
DATE TUESDAY, 16 SEPTEMBER 2014
ATTENTION NEWS EDITOR/EDITORS, PR WIRES

MEC MCHUNU NOTES WITH DISAPPOINTMENT THE BAIL GIVEN TO REED DANCE BUS DRIVER ARRESTED FOR ALLEGED DRINKING AND DRIVING

The MEC for Transport, Community safety and Liaison, Mr. Willies Mchunu, has noted with great disappointment the soft R1 000 bail given to the reed dance bus driver who was arrested for alleged drinking and driving on Sunday, 7 September 2014.

Mr Mbazimba Thomas Makhav, the bus driver, had been charged following a law enforcement operation Mchunu had ordered in the lead up to Umkhosi woMhlanga event.

Safety checks and driver fitness were prioritised in all forms of transport ferrying maidens to this event. These operations were aimed at preventing accidents following last year's horrific bus accident in Nkwalini (R66) that claimed the lives of eleven people including nine maidens and two of their adult minds.

The department's Road Traffic Inspectorate confirmed that the bus driver was over the legal alcohol limit when caught and did not possess a professional driving permit. The driver in question was taken to Benedictin hospital for a further blood test.

He was given a bail of R1 000 at the KwaNongoma Police station, and is expected to appear in court when his blood samples return from the laboratory.

"I do understand that South Africa works under certain laws that have to be followed at all times. However, we will be monitoring very closely the developments of this case, as we advocate for more harsher measures including sentences handed down to traffic law violators. The justice system must be considerate to the lives lost due to negligence including specifically those of nine maidens and two minds who were killed on their way from Umkhosi woMhlanga. We urge our magistrates to be strict on those who break the rules of the road and put the lives of innocent people in danger," said Mchunu.

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